SLEET STORM IN OHIO.

[Extract from the Monthly Climatological Report, Ohio Section, February, 1909.]

A severe sleet storm occurred in the northern and middle sections of Ohio on February 14–16. The greatest damage was done in Hancock, Seneca, Erie, and Huron counties, where it was one of the worst sleet and ice storms ever experienced in Ohio.

The storm began as a mist or light rain, while the temperature of the air near the ground was from 5° to 10° below the freezing point, causing the precipitation to freeze to all objects on which it fell. This continued for nearly two days in many places, and finally changed to a damp, clinging snow, which added further weight to the already overloaded wires and trees. In some places the ice incrusting the telephone and telegraph wires was reported to be about 1 inch in diameter. At Fremont a section of telephone wire 4 feet long, coated with ice, weighed three pounds. At Tiffin a section 1 foot in length weighed one-half pound, while a small twig, with its ice covering, measured five inches in circumference.

The amount of precipitation for the entire storm was unusually heavy.

The damage to telegraph, telephone, and electric light wires, electric railways, fruit and shade trees was widespread. In many instances electric railways were unable to operate their cars for several days. Over 600 poles belonging to one company were broken down between Fremont and Norwalk, and 300 were broken between Findlay and Upper Sandusky. Telephone and telegraph communication was interrupted in the northwestern part of the State for nearly a week, and it required three months to repair the lines of that district.—*J. M. Kirk.*

TORNADOES IN MISSISSIPPI.

[Extract from the Monthly Climatological Report, Mississippi Section, February, 1909.]

In connection with severe thunderstorms on February 5, a tornado developed in northern Sharkey County, Miss., at about 9:30 a. m. The tornado moved in a northerly direction at Booth, where first observed, and later apparently changed its course to northeast when passing in the vicinity of Nittayuma, while in the vicinity of Murphy it moved from west to east. The width of the path varied from about 200 feet to one-fourth of a mile. The loss of life was confined to Booth, where five persons were killed. In the path of the storm, which was approximately 25 miles long, houses, cabins, barns, etc., were destroyed or damaged and some stock killed. Altogether about a dozen persons were more or less injured. Trees were blown down and some buildings slightly damaged for more than one-half mile on either side of the path of the storm. At Booth chickens were stripped of their feathers. The total property loss was probably somewhat less than $20,000. Heavy falls of hail were reported at a number of stations on the 5th.

On February 22 a tornado, moving from southwest to northeast, passed through the town of Falkner, Ripley County, Miss., at 8:10 a. m. Its path was from 200 to 400 yards in width. No lives were lost and no one was seriously injured, although two schoolhouses and a livery stable were blown down and eight houses were unroofed. Two horses were killed. The total property loss was estimated at $8,000.—*W. S. Belden.*

WATERSPOUTS ON THE ATLANTIC COAST.

Local press reports state that large waterspouts developed off Atlantic City, N. J., following a heavy blow on the afternoon of March 30. No casualties have been reported.

CORRIGENDA.

In the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for January, 1909, p. 29, col. 1, line 30, for "mutual" read "natural;" on p. 42, col. 1, in the comparative table of rainfall in Jamaica the column "1908" should be "1909."

In the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for February, 1909, p. 66, col. 2, line 3 from the bottom, for "Strömer" read "Störmer;" p. 60, col. 1, paragraph 2, line 1, and paragraph 3, line 8, for "Clayperon" read "Clapeyron;" p. 60, col. 2, footnote 4, for "1873, Marié-Davy, — title." read "1873, Marié-Davy, 1st title."

THE WEATHER OF THE MONTH.

By Mr. P. C. DAY, Acting Chief, Climatological Division.

PRESSURE AND WINDS.

The distribution of the mean atmospheric pressure for March, 1909, over the United States and Canada is graphically shown on Chart VI, and the average values and departures from the normal are shown for each station in Tables I and III.

The mean atmospheric pressure during March, 1909, was below the normal over all portions of the United States and Canada, except along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains and over the north Pacific coast and portions of British Columbia, where it was slightly above.

The mean pressure diminished rapidly from the Mississippi Valley eastward, the negative departures ranging from about —.05 over the first named locality to slightly more than —.20 inch over eastern New England and the Maritime Provinces of Canada, the mean for the month over the last-named district ranging from 29.80 to less than 29.70 inches. It was also below the normal by smaller amounts over the Plateau and south Pacific coast districts.

From February to March, 1909, there was an increase in pressure from the upper Mississippi Valley westward over the Missouri Valley and northern Plateau to the north Pacific coast, the increase over the latter district ranging from 0.10 to 0.20 inch.

Over the remaining districts of the United States there was a general decrease in pressure, being most pronounced along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and over the Southwest, where the decrease ranged from 0.10 to nearly 0.20 inch.

With the highest average pressure over the upper Missouri Valley and a decided decrease in pressure to the eastward, northwesterly winds prevailed over most of the eastern districts, except along the Gulf coast, where they were largely from southerly points.

March, 1909, was a decidedly stormy month over the districts east of the Rocky Mountains, practically all portions coming under the influence of well-defined storm areas during some portion of the month.

There was a general excess of wind movement over the Atlantic and Gulf States, in the Lake region, and over the south Pacific coast. Over the Great Plains region and the northern portions of the Mountain, Plateau, and Pacific coast districts there was generally less wind than usual at that season of the year.

TEMPERATURE.

March, 1909, opened with moderate weather conditions prevailing over all districts, which continued till the morning of the 3d, when rain and snow set in over the Lake region, and during the following twenty-four hours developed into a storm of considerable severity, moving southeastward to the middle Atlantic coast by the morning of the 4th, and to the New England coast by the evening of the same date. Moderate weather